

American Studies English Common Assessment Q3
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American Studies English Quarter 3 Common Assessment

Directions: Read the following essay, and then answer the questions that follow.

Dodgson's Dictionary

¹Dictionaries are not closed books. ²There is still plenty of room for more words in the voluminous vocabulary authorities. ³New words are continually being created and added to our language. ⁴And many of today's wordsmiths can credit a famous mathematician with the creation of the method by which they develop many new words. ⁵The mathematician was an Englishman named Charles L. Dodgson. ⁶In addition to working with figures, Dodgson wrote books. ⁷His imaginative stories and poems have made Dodgson beloved by generations of readers. ⁸We know him, however, not by the name of Dodgson but by his pseudonym, Lewis Carroll.

⁹Lewis Carroll has delighted countless readers, young and old, with *Alice in Wonderland*, *Through the Looking Glass* and numerous poems. ¹⁰In these works, Carroll developed dozens of nonsensical words such as "chortle" and "galumph." ¹¹Many of these words eventually blended in with more conventional words in the English language. ¹²Carroll referred to his made-up words as "portmanteau" words, named after a kind of leather suitcase that opens into two compartments. ¹³The name was well suited because most of Carroll's words had two compartments. ¹⁴Rather than being entirely fabricated, they were usually made from the combined parts of two different words. ¹⁵A "snark," for example, clearly came from a snake and a shark.

¹⁶Although Carroll died long ago, his technique continues to be used today. ¹⁷We clearly see his influence in such words as *smog*, *brunch*, and *guesstimate*.

1. What is the main idea of this essay?

- A. Dodgson, better known as Lewis Carroll, added to our language by forming words from parts of existing words.
- B. Charles Dodgson contributed to the English language.
- C. Dodgson made up words like "chortle" and "galumph" in the stories and poems that he wrote.
- D. Even though Dodgson was a mathematician, he also wrote stories and poems for children.

2. There is an example of the literary device of alliteration in

- A. sentence 2.
- B. sentence 5.
- C. sentence 11.
- D. sentence 14.

3. Dodgson's made up words

- A. are borrowed from "real" words.
- B. are totally ridiculous.
- C. come from Greek.
- D. always begin with *s*.

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4. Which of the following sentences contains an error in punctuation?

- A. Sentence 7
- B. Sentence 9
- C. Sentence 10
- D. Sentence 17

5. All of the following are facts EXCEPT:

- A. Dodgson is well-known by his pseudonym, Lewis Carroll.
- B. The word “snark” is a combination of snake and shark.
- C. If it weren’t for Dodgson, our language would never change.
- D. Charles L. Dodgson was a mathematician who wrote books.

6. A pseudonym is

- A. a nickname.
- B. a foreign name.
- C. a family name.
- D. a false name.

Directions: Read the following passage, and then answer the questions that follow.

Dr. Hassin Solomon, an expert in criminal behavior, has recently conducted a study of drivers. Dr. Solomon decided that there were six basic types of drivers.

– The “Goody Two-Shoes” is a consistently slow driver. This driver believes that she is being extremely careful when really she is dangerous because she interrupts the normal flow of traffic.

– The “Conformist,” representing eighty percent of all drivers, is the average driver. This driver usually has a good self-concept and likes to obey the law. The Conformist might be tempted to speed if he is late to work or if he has a medical emergency.

– The “Underconformist” is always late. This driver speeds to make up for her own poor planning. For example, she oversleeps on the day of a job interview or arrives at an airport just minutes before the plane is due to leave. Her lack of planning causes her to try to “catch up” on the road.

– The “Challenger” deliberately exceeds the speed limit. This person loves to argue and is very aggressive in many ways.

– The “Situational Deviant” is a person who drives recklessly only in certain situations. She may be a conformist much of the time but drives too fast when drinking alcohol or under the influence of drugs. She often takes her frustrations out on the road.

– The “True Deviant” is often different from the rest of society in other aspects of life as well as in driving. This person often gets into trouble with the law and may lose his license. Often he will drive even after his license has been suspended.

7. What is the main idea of the whole passage?

- A. There are six different types of drivers.
- B. Dr. Solomon recently conducted a study.
- C. Bad drivers always have excuses.
- D. Dr. Solomon is an expert in criminal behavior.

8. Mr. Dwyer used to be a good driver, but now he’s overly cautious. He drives in the slow lane on the highway, but he’ll only go forty miles per hour. What kind of driver is Mr. Dwyer?

- A. A Challenger
- B. A Conformist
- C. A Situational Deviant
- D. A Goody Two-Shoes

9. The point of view of this passage is

- A. first person
- B. second person
- C. third person limited
- D. third person omniscient

10. The word “deviant” comes from the word “deviate.” A person who deviates from what is socially acceptable most likely

- A. follows all the rules of society all the time.
- B. turns away from the accepted standard behavior.
- C. believes that it’s acceptable to drive fast if he’s late to work.
- D. obeys the laws about driving.

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intentionally.**

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Directions: Read the following passage, and then answer the questions that follow.

¹ “Teddy and Will? ² Sure I know them. ³ Why, I lived in the same apartment house with their momma and daddy for over twenty years. ⁴ I remember Teddy, the oldest one. ⁵ He was always so quiet and serious. ⁶ But that Will—he was the loud one. ⁷ He’d shriek and holler when he was hungry. ⁸ But he could laugh, too. ⁹ They were as different as day and night as they got older. ¹⁰ Teddy was always carryin’ books around. ¹¹ I guess he read most of them—got high grades in school. ¹² I know ‘cause his momma used to tell me. ¹³ That Will could never have sat long enough to read much—always dashing in and out, up and down the stairs with his friends. ¹⁴ He was more sports-minded than his brother. ¹⁵ He played on lots of teams at school, and on Sunday you could hear the ball games on his radio way down by my apartment.

“They were both good boys—made their momma proud, they did. Teddy? He went on to school to do something with computers. Will quit school for a while and worked. Later, he went back and got his diploma. He works as a car salesman now—makes good money. Both of them still send their momma money to help out now that their dad is gone. Funny how two brothers can be so different.”

11. What are TWO WAYS in which the boys were similar?

- I. Both had the same parents.
- II. Both were quiet and serious.
- III. Both were male.
- IV. Both loved to play sports.

- A. I and IV
- B. I and III
- C. II and IV
- D. III and IV

12. What are TWO WAYS in which the boys are different?

- I. One liked to read; the other liked sports.
- II. One liked his mother; the other did not.
- III. One left home; the other still lives with his mother.
- IV. One was quiet; the other was noisy.

- A. I and IV
- B. I and III
- C. II and IV
- D. III and IV

13. Based on what you read, you can tell that the neighbor probably

- A. likes both boys.
- B. likes Teddy better than Will.
- C. likes Will better than Teddy.
- D. wishes she’d had more children.

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14. Read the following sentence:

Why, you'd never know a baby lived upstairs—hardly ever cried.

Where would the sentence **best** be placed in the first paragraph?

- A. after sentence 2
 - B. after sentence 3
 - C. after sentence 4
 - D. after sentence 5
15. The speaker in this passage uses language that is characteristic of the area in which she lives and is written so that the reader can hear it in his or her head. This type of writing is called
- A. onomatopoeia
 - B. dialect
 - C. slang
 - D. repetition

Directions: Read the following passage, and then answer the questions that follow.

¹ Old Jake Cochran was a gold miner. ² Near the stream he saw large tracks. ³ He decided they probably belonged to a bear who had come to the stream to fish. ⁴ Not wanting the animal in the camp, he hung his food from a tree several yards from his tent and his campfire. ⁵ One night while searching for gold in the high mountains of Canada, he made his camp by a stream.

⁶ Before dawn, Jake was awakened. ⁷ Crash! ⁸ He saw the back of a huge, fur-covered creature rummaging through his food, which the creature had pulled down from the tree. ⁹ Jake reached for his gun. ¹⁰ First, the creature stood up and growled. ¹¹ Then, it turned around to face Jake, looking more like a gigantic man than a bear. ¹² It stood upright like a man, but it must have weighed at least a thousand pounds. ¹³ Its eyes looked human, yet the creature was covered with thick, dark fur. ¹⁴ After staring at Jake for what seemed like forever, the creature snatched some food in its front, pawlike hands, then disappeared into the brush with a few long strides.

¹⁵ Jake dropped his gun in relief. ¹⁶ He was safe now. ¹⁷ But what kind of creature *was* this?

16. After the first sentence, the first paragraph does not make much sense. In which order should the sentences be placed to make the paragraph make sense?

- A. 1, 3, 5, 4, 2
- B. 1, 5, 2, 3, 4
- C. 1, 4, 3, 5, 2
- D. 1, 2, 4, 5, 3

17. Which sentence has a punctuation error?

- A. sentence 9
- B. sentence 11
- C. sentence 12
- D. sentence 13

18. Read the following sentence:

He leaped from his sleeping bag to peer out of his tent into the dim light.

Where would the sentence **best** be placed in the second paragraph?

- A. after sentence 6
- B. after sentence 7
- C. after sentence 8
- D. after sentence 9

19. The following literary device is used in the passage:

- A. metaphor
- B. dialect
- C. rhyme
- D. onomatopoeia

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Directions: Read the following story, and then answer the questions that follow.

"Anger is just hurt covered over," Aunt Rosie had said. "If you want to solve the problem, stay in touch with the hurt. Don't let the anger take over, or you'll never get anything worked out. The ego uses anger to build a fence around itself so it won't get hurt again."

I thought about her advice. Les was late again. He'd said he'd be home by six. It was nearly 8:30.

I heard the click of the door. "Stay in touch with the hurt," I told myself.

Les stood hesitantly as if I were going to throw something.

"Sorry I'm late," he said softly. He had tired lines around his eyes and mouth. His shoulders drooped.

"I felt really hurt that you weren't here when you said you would be. I fixed a really nice dinner, but it's all cold now," I said.

"I'm sorry. I couldn't even call. The boss insisted I go out to that new construction site and settle the change of plans with the foreman. I couldn't even get to a phone to call you...thanks for not being mad."

Aunt Rosie was right, I thought. If I had hit him full tilt with anger, we'd have just had a big fight. I smiled at him.

"Well, it can't be undone now, I guess," I told him. I wasn't feeling angry anymore.

Les put down his briefcase and drew me into his arms. "Tell you what," he said. "How 'bout Friday night, we'll go out to eat—just to make up for tonight's ruined dinner."

"Okay," I agreed. Then to myself I said, "Thanks, Aunt Rosie, you were right. If you want to solve the problem, don't let the anger take over. Stay in touch with the hurt."

20. Which of the ideas is NOT **directly stated** in the story?

- A. The woman was angry because her husband did not arrive home on time.
- B. Anger is the ego's way of building a fence around itself.
- C. Les started a fight.
- D. If you want to solve a problem, stay in touch with the hurt.

21. Which of the following statements can you **infer** from the story?

- A. The woman loves her husband.
- B. Aunt Rosie is a wise woman.
- C. Les did not intend to make his wife angry.
- D. All of the above

22. What can you **infer** is the **main idea** of this story?

- A. Les is late for dinner.
- B. Anger is related to hurt feelings.
- C. Aunt Rosie gets mad.
- D. Les is tired when he gets home.

23. The type of conflict present in this story can be characterized as

- A. Person vs. Self.
- B. Person vs. Nature.
- C. Person vs. Society.
- D. Person vs. Fate.

24. With which of the following TWO statements would the author probably agree?

- I. Things are not always what they seem.
- II. Getting into fights relieves stress.
- III. If you look behind your anger, you will find hurt.
- IV. Married couples who fight should get divorced.

- A. I and III
- B. I and IV
- C. II and III
- D. III and IV

Directions: Read the following article, and then answer the questions that follow.

Helping Children Become Good Readers

¹Helping children become good readers begins early. ²Babies as young as six months enjoy hearing Mother Goose rhymes because the little poems have rhythm and the sounds of the language are fun to hear. ³Between the ages of six and twelve months, babies often point to pictures in books. ⁴Parents can help by naming objects in the pictures. ⁵It's possible to buy books made of cloth for babies so that they can "pretend read" by turning the pages.

⁶Simple story books, such as *The Three Little Pigs* and *Little Red Riding Hood*, can be added as he grows older. ⁷It's important that parents read such stories with some excitement in their voices. ⁸Then children learn that reading can be fun. ⁹By ages three and four, children enjoy more picture books, ABC books, and somewhat longer stories.

¹⁰At age four or five, children enjoy visiting a library to pick out books. ¹¹Many librarians have been specially trained to help find children's books for particular ages and interests. ¹²For birthdays and other special days, it is a good idea to give at least one book to a child to be his or her very own.

¹³Long before formal schooling begins, parents can help children prepare to be good readers.

25. Which of the following sentences contain information that is **directly stated** in the article?

- A. Parents cannot help children become good readers.
- B. Children should not be trusted in libraries.
- C. Parents should not buy cloth books for babies.
- D. Parents should read to babies as young as six months.

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26. Which sentence has a punctuation error?

- A. Sentence 2
- B. Sentence 6
- C. Sentence 9
- D. Sentence 12

27. Read the following sentence:

Reading aloud is the first step.

Where would the sentence **best** be placed in the letter?

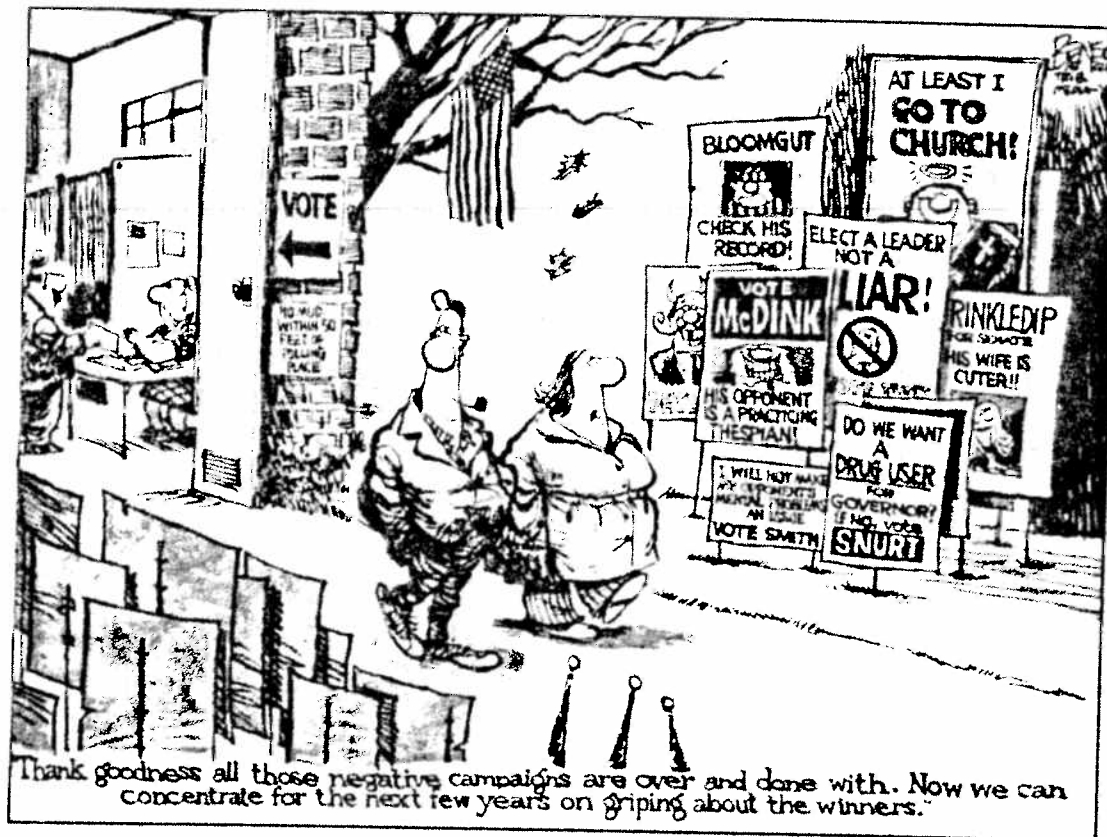
- A. After sentence 1
- B. After sentence 5
- C. After sentence 10
- D. After sentence 13

28. Sentence 6 can be corrected by replacing the underlined portion with which of the following?

- A. as he grows older!
- B. as they grew older.
- C. as he grew older.
- D. as they grow older.

29. A friend of yours mentions that her 5-year-old nephew does not like it when she reads to him. When you ask her what she is reading, she tells you that she reads to her nephew from *Johnny Got His Gun*, which she is reading for class. Which one of the following would you suggest that she read to her nephew instead?

- A. *Of Mice and Men*
- B. *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- C. *Jack and the Beanstalk*
- D. *The Americans*



Directions: Use the information in the cartoon to help you to answer the following questions.

30. Snurt accuses his opponent of being

- A. mentally ill.
- B. a drug user.
- C. a thespian.
- D. unattractive.

31. Smith says he will not make an issue of his opponent's

- A. wife.
- B. record.
- C. mental problems.
- D. age.

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32. Who is accused of having a criminal record?
- A. Bloomgut
 - B. Rinkledip
 - C. McDink
 - D. Smith
33. Why should you vote for Rinkledip?
- A. He attends church.
 - B. He is an actor.
 - C. He does not have a criminal record.
 - D. His wife is attractive.
34. There is one sign in addition to Rinkledip's with a positive connotation. What does it say?
- A. Church attendance is a good quality.
 - B. Voting is necessary in a free society.
 - C. Sexual orientation is not a concern.
 - D. Mental status is not a concern.
35. What did the two people walking probably just finish doing?
- A. Strolling through the park.
 - B. Voting for officials.
 - C. Working in an office.
 - D. Attending a political rally.
36. What does the woman predict they will do for the next few years?
- A. Try to make changes in the leadership elections.
 - B. Follow their politicians faithfully.
 - C. Complain about who is in office.
 - D. Be glad that the negative campaigns are over.
37. **Mud slinging** is a term used to describe one candidate making negative statements about another. Given the meaning of **mud slinging**, what does the sign next to the door mean?
- A. The people in charge of the voting booths don't want to mop the floor later.
 - B. Mud puddles are okay as long as they are 50 feet away from the polling place.
 - C. Political campaigning must be 50 feet away from the polling place.
 - D. Dogs are not allowed in the polling place if they have muddy feet.

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Directions: Read the descriptions of the following ads, and then answer the questions that follow.

A popular TV commercial shows a woman, probably a construction worker, in work clothes and hard hat. A man carrying groceries is wearing jeans and a sport shirt. A young woman is shown playing with a young child. The name of a supermarket is displayed on the screen as voices sing, "You work an honest day, so you want an honest deal."

38. The ad features people dressed in work clothes to appeal to:

- A. wealthy people.
- B. manufacturers of work clothes.
- C. people who work.
- D. supermarket employees.

39. The ad writers hope that as a result of seeing this ad, you will

- A. get a job.
- B. convince the men in your family to shop for groceries.
- C. shop at the supermarket being advertised.
- D. hire women as construction workers.

40. The reason a woman is shown wearing a hard hat is to

- A. appeal to women who work outside of the home.
- B. appeal to homemakers who work inside the home.
- C. make men who work outside the home angry.
- D. make women who work outside the home angry.

41. A woman is shown playing with a child to appeal to

- A. parents
- B. men
- C. children
- D. elderly women

42. What **facts** are presented in the ad?

- A. Anyone who works hard should buy food at that supermarket.
- B. People who work hard deserve honest deals.
- C. Construction workers eat more than most people.
- D. No facts are given in the ad.

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A TV commercial shows an actor dressed in a lab coat. He says, "I'm not a real doctor, but I play one on TV, and I know that Rid Ache works best in relieving headache pain."

43. The actor dresses in a white lab coat rather than in a blue suit because
- A. he wants to publicize the TV show he works on.
 - B. he looks more attractive in white.
 - C. the viewer will associate the product with doctors.
 - D. white shows up better on TV.
44. What fact is given in the description of the ad?
- A. Doctors recommend Rid Ache more often than other brands.
 - B. Rid Ache works faster than other brands.
 - C. The speaker is an actor.
 - D. No facts are given.
45. Many TV commercials are criticized for not providing more factual information. However, TV commercials can be considered useful because they
- A. stop the competition from making money.
 - B. are always factual.
 - C. let people know what new products are available.
 - D. interrupt TV shows.

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Read this paragraph from the short story "Maud Martha and New York" by Gwendolyn Brooks. There are ten words or phrases underlined in the paragraph.

A word or phrase is underlined because it *may* contain a mistake in grammar or usage, punctuation, capitalization, or spelling. Look carefully at each underlined word or phrase. Select the alternative that makes the underlined portion of the text correct.

The name "New York" glitters in front of her like the silver in the shops on Michigan boulevard. It is
46
silver and it is solid and it is remote: it is behind glass—it is behind bright glass like the silver in the
47
shops. It is not for her. Yet.

When she is out walking and with grating iron swish a train whip by, off, above, its passengers are
48 49 50
always, for her comfort, New York-bound. She sits inside with them. She leans back in the plush. She
51
speeds, past farms, threw tiny towns, where people sleep, kiss, quarrel, eats midnight snacks. Unfortunate
52 53
people who are not New York-bound; and never will be.
54 55

46. A. NO CHANGE
B. Michigan Boulevard —
C. Mich. Blv.
D. michigan blvd.

47. A. NO CHANGE
B. remote, it
C. remote and it
D. remote; it

48. A. NO CHANGE
B. When she is out walking.
C. When she is out walking;
D. When she is out walking,

49. A. NO CHANGE
B. whips
C. whipped
D. had whipped

50. A. NO CHANGE
B. were
C. is
D. can be

51. A. NO CHANGE
B. leaned
C. leaning
D. had leaned

52. A. NO CHANGE
B. throw
C. through
D. had thrown

53. A. NO CHANGE
B. ate
C. eaten
D. eat

54. A. NO CHANGE
B. is
C. was
D. were

55. A. NO CHANGE
B. New York-bound: and
C. New York-bound, and
D. New York-bound and

56. The passage contains at least one example of a(n)
A. metaphor.
B. simile.
C. idiom.
D. hyperbole.